

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1. A method of treating pain comprising administering a vanilloid  
2 receptor 1 agonist to the intravertebral space in an amount sufficient to ablate neurons.

1           2. The method of claim 1 wherein the vanilloid receptor 1 agonist is  
2 administered to a patient suffering from discogenic pain.

1           3. The method of claim 1 wherein the vanilloid receptor 1 agonist is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a resiniferatoxin or a capsaicin.

1           4. The method of claim 3 wherein the vanilloid receptor agonist is a  
2 capsaicin.

1           5. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount is from 50 nanograms  
2 to 50 micrograms.

1           6. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount is from about 500  
2 nanograms to about 50 micrograms.

1           7. The method of claim 1 wherein intravertebral administration  
2 comprises direct injection into the space between vertebrae.

1           8. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering a local  
2 anesthetic.

1           9. The method of claim 8 wherein the local anesthetic is lidocaine,  
2 bupivacaine, tetracaine, or ropivacaine.

1           10. A kit for treating back pain comprising a compartment containing a  
2 vanilloid receptor agonist in an amount sufficient to relieve pain and instructional  
3 materials describing how to use the kit.

1           11. The kit of claim 10 wherein the vanilloid receptor agonist is a  
2 capsaicin.

1           12. The kit of claim 10 further comprising a local anesthetic.

1           13. The kit of claim 12 wherein the local anesthetic is lidocaine or  
2 bupivacaine.